

given to commendable companies, and one award is given to one outstanding non-profit organization. Over the years, corporations within the development, arts, public utilities, communications, and healthcare industries, among others, have been recognized for playing a leading role in Delaware's economic well-being. In November of 1998, the very first luncheon was held to present these distinguished awards in the Gold Ballroom at the Hotel DuPont, the very same location where many of the 40 winning companies, state and local officials, Chamber members, and other notable members of the community will gather to celebrate this milestone. In fact, I was among the guests present at the first Superstars in Business Awards luncheon, and a decade later I am pleased to join in saluting what has become a distinguished tradition.

In recognizing this program, it is only fitting to also recognize the program's entrepreneurial namesake, the late Marvin S. Gilman. Mr. Gilman served as president of Gilman Development Co. in Wilmington for more than forty years, during which time he earned the reputation of a model small business owner and leader in the community. He used his position in the housing industry to further the cause of desegregation, sponsoring the Sutton Place high-rise facility project in Baltimore—one of the first major real estate projects to welcome tenants of all races—and serving on the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. Recognized for their service to the community, Mr. Gilman and his wife, Muriel, were the first couple to receive the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's Josiah Marvel Cup Award.

Once again, I recognize the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business Awards for ten years of honoring exceptional small businesses and organizations. It is this commitment to fostering economic and community excellence that keeps Delaware one of the best environments to conduct business in the United States.

EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I reluctantly supported this economic rescue plan on Monday, and I will do so again today. Not because I like it. I don't. Not because it is popular. It isn't. And certainly not because I think responsible taxpayers have any obligation to bail out Wall Street. They don't. Instead, I will support this plan because I believe that acting decisively now will almost certainly mean less cost to taxpayers and less pain on Main Street than allowing this credit crisis to get worse.

In what history will record as the final verdict on 8 years of the Bush administration's failed economic policies, allowing this credit crisis to spread to Main Street would dry up existing lines of credit, cause more small businesses to fail, put more people out of work, place more retirees' pensions at risk, and accelerate the current downturn in our fragile economy. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

Let's be clear: This legislation is a far cry from the original, three-page, blank check proposal Secretary Paulson submitted to Congress. Whereas the Paulson proposal had no oversight, no limits on executive compensation or golden parachutes, no help for homeowners, no upside for taxpayers, and no requirement that the President submit a plan to Congress to recoup the full amount of the taxpayers' money from participating institutions should any amount of the initial outlay not be recovered after 5 years' time, this legislation contains all of those protections.

Additionally, as a result of the Senate's action last night, the bill we are considering today also includes a 1-year patch for the AMT to ensure 25 million additional Americans are not snared by this tax; \$18 billion in renewable energy incentives (paid for by eliminating subsidies to the oil and gas industries) to accelerate our transition to a 21st century green economy; and mental health parity legislation that will end the shameful history of insurance discrimination suffered by those whose conditions affect the brain, rather than the rest of the body. This revised package also contains bipartisan legislation I introduced to end the ISO AMT crisis affecting tens of thousands of law-abiding Americans by providing permanent relief from that universally condemned corner of our code. And it further protects our citizens' savings by temporarily increasing the cap on FDIC-insured accounts to \$250,000.

Like any legislation of this magnitude, there are provisions I do not support, other provisions I thought should be included, and still others I would have changed. For example, the renewable energy title includes several incentives that in my view fall outside the definition of "renewable," and the tax title contains a number of narrowly drawn provisions that detract from the larger purpose of this legislation. Additionally, the final bill failed to include a measure I support to allow bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages on primary residences the same way they are currently able to modify mortgages on second homes and investment properties. Furthermore, the Senate package was not fully paid for and for that reason will unnecessarily add to our national debt. And finally, I personally would have preferred that this rescue plan include some immediate regulatory reforms, recognizing that more comprehensive reform will follow congressional hearings that begin next week. Nevertheless, our citizens can be assured that Congress is determined to get to the bottom of what caused this mess and act promptly to make sure this kind of crisis never happens again.

IN HONOR OF RAFAEL "FEYNNER"
ARIAS GODINEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of a special friend, Rafael "Feynner" Arias Godinez, on this occasion of his 20th anniversary as a steward of the UC Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve in Big Sur, California. The Big Creek Reserve is operated by the University of California's Santa

Cruz campus. The land was part of the Circle M Ranch until the ranch was broken up and sold; private owners, including my father, the late Senator Fred Farr, later granted the land to the university's Natural Reserve System.

Feynner Arias came to the United States from his native Costa Rica. He was born near the town of Parrita, Costa Rica. His family was very poor by American standards. Feynner's life in the jungles of Costa Rica is full of stories that books and movies are made from; learning to hunt and fish from his grandmother, his abuela, Elija; battling school bullies who abandoned him in a well; overcoming deadly snake bites in the jungle; learning to survive with just a machete and his wits; and, as a sawmill child laborer having to remove saw dust from a fast moving sawmill blade. Through hard work and out of necessity, he developed a jungle reputation as a person who could track down anything; he could hunt and capture it for food or money to support his mother and seven siblings.

Feynner's vast knowledge of the land and animals drew wildlife scientists from around the world to hire him as a guide; his work helped to establish the Corcovado National Park in Costa Rica. Feynner often traded his guiding services for food. One of his clients was a woman PhD candidate at UC Berkeley. Together they lived in the rain forest studying ants. After she returned to California he received a letter asking him to come for a visit. He traded the gold that he had panned for in Panama for an airline ticket to the U.S., going from the rain forest of Costa Rica to the San Francisco Bay area. Soon married, he landed a job at the Big Creek Reserve. By a stroke of luck, the resident reserve manager at Big Creek had, many years prior, benefited from Feynner's guide services in Costa Rica and was well familiar with Feynner's wilderness experience and helped to guide Feynner through the bureaucracy of the university's hiring practices.

Today, the entire Big Sur coast and the UC Natural Reserve System have come to love and respect Feynner's knowledge of natural flora and fauna and the coast range. His stories of sleeping near the mountain lions, killing a wild boar with a small knife, rescuing lost and injured hikers, and leading fire crews to the best areas to fight raging fires are well known on the coast. Whether working with world-renowned academics or nondegreed people like himself, he is sought after like a celebrity. He is known locally as the person who can fix anything, build anything, or find anything. He is able to grow Costa Rican bushes in his home, spot wildlife and whales that others can't find, and to understand the natural world around him in ways that the more formally educated often can't. His understanding and appreciation of the world around him and us is unsurpassed.

Feynner is now celebrating 20 years with the Big Creek Reserve. Those who know and love him celebrate this uncommon immigrant who has captured their hearts and minds. We congratulate and celebrate his service to the people of California and especially to his friends and neighbors in Big Sur.

Madam Speaker, Speaker, I for one, will always treasure the Farr family good fortune to have known, laughed and learned from Rafael Arias. Gracias Amigo por todo!